OD BUFFALC ational Par

PARKS CANADA IS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL

PARK AND WE NEED YOUR HELP.

PARCS CANADA SOLLICITE VOTRE COLLABORATION AUX PLANS D'AVENIR QU'IL EST EN TRAIN D'ÉLABORER POUR LE PARC NATIONAL WOOD BUFFALO.

KERETAWAYMITIKAN TA WECHENEAK OMA KAWAY WEASCHEKIAK OCHE WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARIL

THE ISSUES

This is the third in a series of newsletters designed to encourage you to participate in planning Wood Buffalo National Park. The management plan will provide direction to the park's management and development for the next 10 to 15 years. To successfully do this, the plan must resolve many outstanding and projected problems.

This newsletter provides a list of issues as identified by Parks Canada. The planning team recognizes this list may be incomplete and urges you to raise other issues that concern you during the first stage of the public participation program, known as the "Identification of Issues and Collection of Information".



Parks Canada urges you to review and comment on planning issues. Make your views known to any member of the planning team at the first round of public meetings or workshops, which will be held in communities in and around the park during January, February and March, or contact the public participation co-ordinator, Maureen Crowe, Box 750, Fort Smith, N.W.T. X0E 0P0, telephone (403) 872-2649, or contact your community liaison officer. These people are:

Hilda Lepine Jackson Whiteknife Charlie Simpson Simon Nanooch Rene Mercredi **Mary Jane Stewart Raymond Sonfrere Cathy MacDonald**

Fort Chipewyan, Alberta W.B.N.P. Hunters' & Trappers' Assoc. Peace Point, Alberta

Garden River, Alberta

Fort Smith, N.W.T. Pine Point, N.W.T.

Hay River, N.W.T.

North Slave Hunters' & Trappers' Assoc.

Bulletin #3, Programme de planification de l'aménagement du parc national Wood Buffalo.

Voici un résumé du troisième bulletin.

Les questions ou les problèmes qui seront soulevés et résolus au cours des travaux de planification sont réexaminés dans le troisième bulletin. Ils portent notamment sur la prévention des incendies de forêt, la chasse, le piégeage, la pêche (subsistance), l'aménagement de l'aire récréative du lac Pine, l'accès au parc ou le passage à travers le parc, l'avenir des lotissements dans le parc ainsi que sur la gestion des ressources, l'aménage-ment des installations et l'utilisation des ressources du

Il se peut qu'il y ait d'autres questions. Elles devraient trouver leur solution au cours des travaux de planification. Si vous en connaissez, nous vous encourageons à les soumettre à l'équipe de planification lors de la première étape du processus de planification.

Voici ce que nous vous proposons.

- Remplissez et postez la carte si vous desirez que nous vous fassions parvenir ce bulletin en français, que nous ajoutions votre nom à votre liste d'adresses ou que nous vous donnions des renseignements supplémentaires.
- Relisez le présent bulletin pour vous familiariser avec les questions concernant la planification. Existet-il d'autres questions qui, d'après vous, meriteraient que l'on s'y attarde?

OHI KAMUSINAKATIKI OTA KAWAY EYMOTAKIC, EYANEWSAP PISIM TA NEWCHITAWUK OMA WEASCHIKIWIN.

PAMOTE SKANASA

MISKINOWA

KISTICUE SEPES

KWATAKA KAPESEWINA

TANTA TUKSIPAYK PARK

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- PASKWO-MOOTOOSWUK
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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

PARKS CANADA'S POLICY REGARDING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STATES "NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN NATION-AL PARKS WILL BE PROTECTED AND MANAGED WITH MINIMAL INTERFERENCE TO NATURAL PROCESSES TO ENSURE THE PERPETUATION OF NATURALLY EVOLVING LAND AND WATER ENVIRONMENTS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED SPECIES.

FIRE MANAGEMENT:

SHOULD FIRE BE EXTINGUISHED IN THE PARK? IF SO, WHEN AND FOR WHAT REASONS? DOES THE CURRENT PRIORITY ZONING SYSTEM PLACE EMPHASIS ON THE CORRECT AREAS? HOW MUCH EFFORT SHOULD BE EXPENDED IN EACH ZONE?

Naturally occurring wildfire is a natural process

Current fire suppression policy is to take action on all reported fires within the park. It is not possible to totally extinguish all fires as they occur, especially during a severe fire season. Three priority zones are currently in use, based on values to be protected. Zone one consists of the areas surrounding settlements, highway and utility corridors, the whooping crane nesting area and areas surrounding man made developments. Zone two areas surround zone one areas and contain resources and developments of a less critical nature. Zone two acts as a buffer zone for zone one. Zone three consists of remote areas of the park where sustained fire supression action costs could far exceed the values to be protected. Dollar limits have been set on zone three fires.

Priority is given to zone one during multiple fire situation. Action may be limited in the other zones when the cost of suppression could far exceed the values to be protected.

A park fire history study is now underway and should provide information on the historical role fire has played in the park and how fire behaves in the park environment. This information will form the basis for a fire management plan.

BISON:

HOW CAN THE PARK BISON BE BEST MANAGED AND PROTECTED?

What should the management objectives be regarding population size, disease control, range management, predation and other influences? The present objective is to maintain under natural conditions, a free ranging bison population within the ecological limits of the park resources.

SPECIAL AREAS:

WHAT AREAS AND FEATURES IN THE PARK REQUIRE SPECIAL PROTECTION?

Parks Canada through its zoning system and specific regulations can provide protection for special areas and endangered species. Uncontrolled usage can damage these resources therefore these features need to be addressed within the plan. For example, should the public be allowed to visit park caves and if so what safety and enforcement precautions are required? How should the Salt Plains best be appreciated and yet protected? How and what measures can be directed towards ensuring continued protection of such species as the whooping crane and peregrine falcon?

PARK BOUNDARY:

IS THE EXISTING PARK BOUNDARY A REASONABLE ONE?

Many park resources require large areas of land for their proper protection such as the delta, whooping cranes, karstlands and bison. However, regional development pressures have required Parks Canada to determine if expansion of the park or re-alignment of the boundary are required to protect those resources and to maintain representation of the northern boreal plains.

Administrative problems created by areas where roads cross the park boundary repeatedly and where lakes are divided by the present boundary, as well as by the existence of communities such as Garden Creek suggest a need for a boundary review.

PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC **RESOURCES:**

HOW ARE HISTORIC AND PRE-HISTORIC RESOURCES OF WOOD BUFFALO NATION-AL PARK TO BE PROTECTED?

The park lies in a region rich in human history. Parks Canada archeologists have located evidence that man moved into this area as the glaciers melted, living off the bison, moose, small animals and fish of the region. Much of the activity of fur trade in northern and western Canada was centered in Fort Chipewyan just as the interior plains and their rivers became highways for later development of Canada's north. Historic sites, and artifacts of man's activity are not uncommon but many are increasingly threatened.





EXTRACTION & HARVESTING OF PARK RESOURCES:

WHAT LEVEL OF RESOURCE HARVESTING IS REQUIRED BY THE LOCAL ECONOMY? WHAT LEVEL OF USE CAN PARKS CANADA PERMIT WHILE STILL FULFILLING ITS RESOURCE PROTECTION MANDATE?

Several consumptive uses of the living resources of Wood Buffalo National Park are still occurring, carried out by park and regional residents, though the timber berth is held by an international forest industry company. The activities were originally sanctioned to improve the economy of the region.

These activities are not consistent with existing Parks Canada policy; however, the local economy depends on these resource extraction activities to varying degrees.

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

SHOULD COMMERCIAL FISHING BE PERMITTED IN PARK WATERS? IF SO, WHAT MEANS ARE REQUIRED TO PROTECT AND MANAGE THE HABITAT AND MIGRATION **BOUTES OF THE FISH?**

Commercial fishing for goldeye in the Peace-Athabasca Delta was closed in 1966 due to stock depletion caused by over-harvesting. Restoring the fishery would be difficult as a rock weir on the Rocher River now blocks an important migration route of the fish between Lake Athabasca and the Peace River.

COMMERCIAL LOGGING:

SHOULD COMMERCIAL LOGGING BE PERMITTED IN THE PARK?

There is one timber berth in the park operating under a lease agreement which expires in 1981, but which will be extended for an additional 21 years unless conditions of the agreement are violated. This has not been the case to this date. The logging operation contravenes the National Park policy but in some winters provides some local employment for residents of Garden Creek. The white spruce stands located in this timber berth are possibly the best remaining stands in Alberta.

HUNTING, TRAPPING AND SUBSISTENCE FISHING:

HOW CAN THE PARK ENSURE THAT NATIVE HARVESTING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES DOES NOT THREATEN THE SURVIVAL OF SOME SPECIES OR CAUSE WILDLIFE POPULATIONS TO DETERIORATE IN THE FUTURE?

Traditional hunting and trapping privileges were granted to treaty Indians and others previously harvesting the Park's animal resources in 1926. Their descendants were permitted to inherit these privileges in 1949.

The Wood Buffalo National Park Game Regulations now regulate this activity, however, it is generally felt by the hunters and trappers and the park that some of the regulations are not totally adequate.

The number of individuals eligible to obtain the hunting and trapping privileges will increase in the future. The technology of resource harvesting will also improve, increasing the pressure on the park resources.

Some joint managment arrangement is required to ensure that the objectives of both native residents and the park can be met.

NATIVE SETTLEMENTS

MANY NATIVE PEOPLE LIVE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK. THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR SETTLEMENTS PLACE MANY PRESSURES ON PARK RESOURCES AND ANY PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THEIR PRESENCE IF IT IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

HOW CAN PARKS CANADA INTEGRATE ITS OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT WITH THESE PEOPLE TO ENSURE PARKS CANADA'S MANDATE OF RESOURCE PROTECTION IS ACHIEVED?



PEACE POINT

The Government of Canada has agreed to a claim by the Cree people of Treaty 8 to the Peace Point area. The area has been surveyed and a formalized agreement has been made with the Minister to permit the establishment of a settlement prior to the creation of a reserve by the Government of Canada and Alberta. The band has located several trailers at Peace Point and are in the process of constructing new log houses. Several of the residents are examining the feasibility of providing tourist services as part of the economic base for the community.

GARDEN CREEK

Garden Creek settlement is just inside the Park. It is a community that has developed through historical occupancy and is not an Indian Reserve or subject to a current Land Claim at the present time. Fur-bearing animals and moose are under increasing pressure in the area and the settlement lacks basic services such as sewage and water. Is it preferable to retain the community within the Park boundary, and if so what role should the park play in determining and facilitating the direction for its development?

EMBARRAS RIVER

The Embarras River area has been identified as a potential land claim by the Cree people of Ft. Chipewyan. The grea has been surveyed but no further action has occured towards establishing the reserve, though the claim has been agreed to by the Government of Canada. A few families of trappers presently live in the

TRAPPERS' CABINS AND SETTLEMENTS:

RESIDENCES SO AS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT ON PARK RESOURCES? THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 48 TRAPPERS' CABINS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE PARK.

Trappers' cabins are currently controlled by the National Park Building Regulations, the Wood Buffalo National Park Game Regulations and a park specific policy. In certain instances trappers feel the regulations too restrictive



RECREATIONAL USE OF THE PARK

PARKS CANADA PROVIDES FOR A VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WHICH ARE A MEANS FOR PARK VISITORS TO ENJOY AND UNDERSTAND THE PARK'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE PROTECTION OF PARK RESOURCES IN NATIONAL PARKS.

WHAT LEVELS AND KINDS OF USE ARE APPROPRIATE FOR WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK?

PINE LAKE RECREATION AREA:

WHAT DEGREE OF DEVELOPMENT AND WHAT MANAGEMENT MEASURES ARE RE-QUIRED AT PINE LAKE?

The main recreational developments in the park - the only park campground, the swimming beach, picnic area, boat dock and interpretive theatre - are located on Pine Lake's west shore. Proposals for additional facilities such as walk-in campgrounds and new picnic areas to increase the variety of recreational apportunities at the lake and to allow for potential future increases in the number of park visitors have been made by Parks Canada. Park users have proposed developing facilities on the opposite side of the lake.



PINE LAKE COTTAGES:

WHAT POLICY WILL BE APPLIED TO THE PINE LAKE COTTAGES?

Should the area occupied by the cottages be used for private purposes, or should it be public?

There are seventeen cottages at Pine Lake under leases that expire in 1983 and 1984. National Parks policy is to no longer issue new leases for private recreational residences. However, Pine Lake, at the present time provides the only lake frontage accessible for cottage development to residents of Ft. Smith. If new leases are issued, the terms of the new leases will require the redefinition of conditions such as lot size and environmental controls on development.

RAINBOW LAKES:

WHAT KINDS OF USE ARE APPROPRIATE IN THE RAINBOW LAKES AREA?

This cluster of six small sinkhole lakes is accessible by a cutline once planned to be developed into a road. An extensive hiking trail system is now proposed for the area. Hikers and fishermen often camp at the lakes. Other facilities may be required in the Rainbow Lakes area. In the past, the lakes have been stacked with speckled trout.

OTHER RECREATION AREAS:

WHAT OTHER RECREATIONAL AREAS OR PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN THE PARK?

The lack of access has limited the recreational use of many park areas. Even so, several areas in the park have been noted as having some particular recreational potential. The Angus Tower area, Sweetgrass, the Peace-Althabasca Delta and certain sites along the Loop Road, are examples. All such potential developments must be in keeping with the park's natural resources and require a minimum level of physical development.

BACKCOUNTRY USE:

WHAT KINDS OF BACKCOUNTRY USE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED IN THE PARK?

At present, there are very few backcountry facilities. If demand warrants it, hiking trails, backcountry campsites, and shelters, canoe routes, outfitting and guiding operations and publications on the backcountry could be developed. Guiding and outfitting provides economic opportunities for local entrepreneurs and residents. Currently, canoe rental services, day teom tours, boating, canoeing and hiking trips are being offered or are being planned.

ACCESS

ROADS:

WHAT BOADS SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE PARK?

In the past there have been proposals for regional roads to improve the access to the south for residents and to improve local economies through better transportation and increased tourism. Representations have been made at various times to build a road south through the park connecting Fort Smith to Fort McMurray and to build a road which would connect Fort Smith to High Level via Peace Point and Garden Creek. There may be a requirement for internal park roads to enhance the park experience of visitors and to improve management, but roads could negatively affect wildlife, wilderness values, drainage patterns and other park resources. A review of the need for existing roads may identify roads or sections of roads which may be removed. All road proposals will require the definition of construction and maintenance standards.



AIR ACCESS:

WHAT USE OF AIRCRAFT, IF ANY, IS APPROPRIATE TO PROVIDE ACCESS INTO THE PARK?

The Parks Canada policy on air access is to not permit it except under strictly controlled circumstances. Flight lines and altitudes will be restricted when possible. The plan will examine the use of aircraft to provide access into the park.

WATER ACCESS:

WHAT LEVEL AND TYPES OF WATER ACCESS INTO THE PARK ARE APPROPRIATE?

Several hundred visitors enter the park on the Peace, Athabasca and Slave Rivers each summer. Other water access opportunities are limited by the nature of the terrain and the inaccessibility of large portions of the park but boating in the delta and on several small rivers within the park is possible.



REGIONAL ISSUES

IN ADDITION TO THOSE SPECIFIC PARK ISSUES. THERE ARE OTHER REGIONAL ISSUES WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECT THE PARK BUT OVER WHICH THE PARK DOES NOT HAVE DIRECT CONTROL. THESE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PARK AS WELL

SLAVE RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROPOSAL:

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES FROM THE PARK'S POINT OF VIEW OF DAMMING THE SLAVE RIVER?

Damming the Slave River could have considerable impact on the park such as flooded lands, extra roads, gravel pits, and transmission lines. There would also be some local economic benefits and new employment opportunities.

Parks Canada's position on this project is that such a utility installation is not permitted in a National Park if alternative areas or projects can be found elsewhere. If a suitable alternative is not available, park land may be utilized only if the project has a degree of national importance which outweighs any impairment to park values by the project.

The environmental impact of such a project on the park must be assessed through the federal environmental assessment and review process (EARP) and this assessment is to be carried out early in the project's planning and prior to any commitment or final decision being made. Parks Canada has already referred the project to F.E.A.R.O. (Federal Environmental Assessment Re-

LAND CLAIMS:

WHAT SPECIAL DEMANDS WILL THAT PLACE ON THE PARK? HOW CAN THE PO-TENTIAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS BE RESOLVED?

Parks Canada is not directly involved in negotiating land claims but the results of negotiations could create new and difficult problems regarding resource management, park development and visitor use of the park. Ways must be found to ensure the selfsufficiency of the native residents and to ensure that the park is not negatively affected.

PEACE-ATHABASCA DE TA

SHOULD THE DELTA BE MANAGED TO TRY TO EXCLUDE OR CORRECT THE EFFECTS OF MAN'S ACTIONS OR SHOULD IT BE LEFT TO RESPOND TO ALL INFLUENCES WHETHER THEY BE MAN MADE OR NATURAL?

During the past decade, rock weirs have been built in the delta to minimize changes to it caused by the Bennett Dam in British Columbia. As well, natural changes in the flow pattern and direction of the Athabasca River have been averted by cutting a new channel for the river. Any changes which affect the flow or water quality of the Peace, Slave and Athabasca Rivers will influence all the resources of the delta.

IMPACT OF REGION-AL DEVELOPMENT:

HOW CAN THE PARK MINIMIZE THE POTENTIALLY HARMFUL EFFECTS OF INDUS-TRIAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT OCCUR BEYOND THE PARK BOUNDARY AND THE IMPACT OF GROWING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES?

While the park is required to protect the quality of its environment, damaging influences such as acid rain, oil spills, radioactive material from uranium mines and abnormal salinity from oil sands mining operations can reach the park through the air and in rivers. In addition, the growth of communities adjacent to the park in areas such as the far sands of Alberta increases the recreational and access demands placed on the park, Parks Canada does not have the mandate to regulate such developments or to liaise directly with responsible agencies. However, if these issues are defined in the management plan, Parks Canada could bring them to the attention of the appropriate agencies when necessary.

REGIONAL TOURI

WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE PARK ASSUME IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES AND WHAT FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS ARE NECES-SARY TO FULFILL THAT ROLE?

The significant resources of this park and its wilderness qualities make it a regional tourist attraction in this part of Canada. However, not all recreational or tourist activities can be accommodated within the park.

The park should develop in relation to the G.N.W.T. tourism plan, territorial park developments and other pertinent regional strategies both in Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Parks Canada will encourage the growth of tourism related opportunities in communities such as Ft. Smith, Ft. Chipewyan, Peace Point and, generally, throughout north-eastern Alberta.

PARK ADMINISTRA-TION PRACTICES:

NOW CAN THE PARK BEST CONTINUE TO BE A GOOD MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY WHILE ENSURING EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES?

The large size of the park creates difficulties in its administration and in providing services to the public. Presently, Ft. Smith is the main administrative centre and a warden area office is located at Ft. Chipewyan. Potential future changes in the access to the park may require re-examination of the location of administration facilities. Wardens could be further decentralized to field locations such as Garden Creek, Hay Camp, Peace Point and Embarras.

The interpretive program is still developing and could involve more facilities, trails or community programs. Direct employment, through related activities such as tourist outfitting and career training programs all exist now.

DO YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION?

DETAILED INFORMATION HAS BEEN PREPARED ON EACH OF THE LISTED ISSUES. TAPED TRANSLATIONS OF THE NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE IN CREE AND CHIPEWYAN FROM YOUR LOCAL LIAISON OFFICER AND THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CO-ORDINATOR.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE COPIES OF THIS MATERIAL OR IF YOUR NAME HAS YET TO BE PLACED ON THE MAILING LIST, CLIP AND MAIL THIS CARD TO:

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK P.O. BOX 750 FORT SMITH, N.W.T. XOE OPO

Please	to help plan the park. place my name on the mailing list.			
	send me a copy of Parks Canada's policy.			
ASE SEND ME ADDITIONAL INI	FORMATION ON THE ISSUES MARKED BELOV			
Resource Management	Pine Lake Recreation Area	Regional Issues		
Park Boundary	Rainbow Lakes	Hydroelectric Proposal		
Extraction & Harvesting of	Backcountry Use	Land Claims		
Park Resources	Roads	Peace-Athabasca Delta		
Commercial Logging	Water Access	Impact of		
Native Settlements	Fire Management	Regional Development		
Embarras River	Special Areas	Regional Tourism		
Trappers' Cabins & Settlements	Prehistoric & Historic Resources	Park Administration Practices		
Commercial Fishing	Access	Air Access		
Hunting, Trapping & Subsistence Fishing	NAME			
Garden Creek	ADDRESS			
Peace Point	LANGUAGE: ENGLISH FRANCAIS	MEHEVAWIN		
Recreational Use of the Park	Endonal Endudi	1781781711111111		
Pine Lake Cottages	PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE CONTACT ME. I V	VOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS AN ISSUE		
Other Recreational Areas	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TELEPHONE NUMBER		

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

1981

PLACE	MEETINGS			DROP-INS		
	MONTH	DAY	DATE	MONTH	DAY	DATE
GARDEN RIVER, ALBERTA	JANUARY	WEDNESDAY	7	JANUARY	THURSDAY	8
PEACE POINT, ALBERTA	11	MONDAY	12			
FORT SMITH, N.W.T.	. "	THURSDAY	22	11	FRIDAY	23
FORT CHIPEWYAN, ALBERTA	11	MONDAY	26	11	TUESDAY	27
FORT RESOLUTION, N.W.T.	**	THURSDAY	29	11	FRIDAY	30
HAY RIVER, N.W.T.	FEBRUARY	TUESDAY	3	FEBRUARY	WEDNESDAY	4
PINE POINT, N.W.T.	11	THURSDAY	5	11	FRIDAY	6
FOX LAKE, ALBERTA	#	TUESDAY	10			
JEAN D'OR PRAIRIE, ALBERTA	17	WEDNESDAY	11			
HIGH LEVEL, ALBERTA		THURSDAY	12	11	FRIDAY	13
FORT VERMILION, ALBERTA	19	SUNDAY	15			
YELLOWKHIFE, N.W.T.	n	WEDNESDAY	- 25	H	THURSDAY	26
LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA	MARCH	TUESDAY	3			
CALGARY, ALBERTA	11	WEDNESDAY	4			
EDMONTON, ALBERTA		THURSDAY	5			
FORT MCMURRAY, ALBERTA	11	WEDNESDAY	11	**	THURSDAY	12

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